



Puget Sound Regional Council

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June 5, 2023

Jeff Churchill, Long Range Planning Manager
City of Redmond
15670 NE 85th St
Redmond, WA 98073

Subject: PSRC Comments on Redmond Draft Economic Vitality and Centers Elements

Dear Mr. Churchill,

Thank you for providing an opportunity for the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to review a draft of the City of Redmond's Economic Vitality and Centers element. We appreciate that the city has invested a substantial amount of time and effort in developing the elements and appreciate the chance to review them while in draft form. This timely collaboration provides an opportunity to review plan elements for the 2024 comprehensive plan and prepares the city well for [certification](#) by PSRC once the full plan has been adopted.

Many aspects of the elements that advance regional goals in VISION 2050 and meet requirements under the Growth Management Act. The Economic Vitality element captures the key ideas in VISION 2050 by promoting a sustainable economy and investing in the community. Focusing on a diverse workforce and business community through the regulations and incentives for affordable commercial spaces will help the city continue to cultivate a diverse workforce that includes local-owned and innovative businesses.

Additionally, the included data on commute patterns in and out of Redmond demonstrates a large challenge to the city in addressing both housing options and transportation needs. The recognition of the need for increased housing options and increased multimodal connections are useful. More information and policies that support these are expected to be found in other plan elements.

The city is doing great work in planning inclusively for all people. This is made clear through specific policies, including OV-9, which includes opportunity for and development of universally-designed housing units for community members with disabilities.

We suggest the city consider the following comments as further work is completed for the comprehensive plan update to align with [VISION 2050](#) and the Growth Management Act:

- The city included draft growth targets in the VISION 2050 consistency tool to demonstrate potential growth patterns. The planning year (2050) is different from the horizon of targets from King County (2044). The land use element isn't included in the review batch, but a reminder that the city's plan should show how the 2050 numbers were developed and their relationship to the 2044 growth targets.
- The Centers element provides a strong foundation for the vision of centers overall, and specifically the Overlake Neighborhood, as central places to focus growth and address needs and goals related to equity, sustainability, and resiliency. In 2025, PSRC will conduct a monitoring review to ensure that all existing centers fully meet eligibility and designation criteria as documented in the [Regional Centers Framework Update](#). The comprehensive plan is a good opportunity to address these planning expectations, including documenting existing conditions, growth targets, mode split goals, and other components highlighted in the framework.

PSRC has resources available to assist the city in addressing these comments and inform development of other draft plan elements. We have provided links to online documents in this letter, and additional resources related to the plan review process can also be found at <https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/vision/vision-2050-planning-resources>.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments. We are happy to continue working with you as these elements progress through the adoption process and we look forward to reviewing additional draft elements as you develop the rest of the comprehensive plan. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 206-464-6171 or mmoore@psrc.org.

Sincerely,



Maggie Moore
Senior Planner
Puget Sound Regional Council

cc: Review Team, Growth Management Services, Department of Commerce